

instant test is in the perforation. The forgery before us is cancelled with two concentric circles, and the date in the centre is either "63" or "83," with a c below it in the outer circle. As only half the postmark is shown, we are unable to describe it more definitely. Our readers will remember that the genuine stamps were issued in 1871. All our genuine specimens are cancelled with a single circle.

BOARD OF TRADE STAMPS— GUILDHALL STAMPS.

In answer to our enquiry in our last Supplement concerning these stamps, we have received a letter from Mr. G. Fox, Bellevue Road, Upper Tooting, which gives the following list of stamps in his possession, all with the official Crown and B.T. perforations:

- 1d., slate.
- 2½d., lilac (perforated sideways).
- 4d., green and brown.
- 5d., lilac and blue.
- 6d., purple on red.
- 1s., green, current issue.
- 1d., vermilion, current issue.
- 1d., lilac, current issue.

All these stamps, our correspondent informs us, were from a collection made in Italy, showing that we must look abroad for them as a general rule; but a letter from Mr. Martin, given below, shows that they are also used in England. Another stamp mentioned by Mr. Fox is the current 1d. perforated, with a crown only, and one of a different type from that of the Board of Trade. He asks whether this also is a departmental stamp. No doubt it is so; but perhaps one of our readers may be able to give us further information. From Mr. Martin's letter, given below, this should be obvious.

Mr. A. P. Pearce, of Mitley, Plymouth, has sent us a pair of current 1d. stamps (see Illustration), perforated with the arms



of the City of London, but he has no information as to what particular official of the City employs these stamps. It will be noticed that the perforation is *lôte-bêche*. On examination it is evident that the one stamp is perforated from the front and the other from the back, which accounts for the *lôte-bêche* position, as the sheet of stamps has been folded, so that each set of punches will perforate two stamps at a time, and being so folded, of course one of the

stamps must necessarily have the punched design upside down.

Mr. W. Martin, Stranraer, sends us the following:

"DEAR SIR,—I notice in your article in the Supplement of 11th Oct., re the Board of Trade official stamps, that you presume they are only used for foreign correspondence. I enclose herewith, for your inspection, stamps of the values of 1d., vermilion; 1d., lilac; 5d., lilac and blue; I have also the 2½d., large crown and B.T. They have been used in Board of Trade correspondence with this district. The only department from which they have been received is the Keeper's Department, Board of Trade, London. You will notice some of them are perforated from the back, and show the B.T. reversed. It may also interest you to know that I have also seen the current issue with the large crown only, perforated. They were from one of the Customs Departments.—Yours faithfully,

"WM. MARTIN."

We have not illustrated any of the stamps sent by Mr. Martin, as they are similar to our 2½d., given in the October Supplement. Of course the reversed "B.T." is owing to the sheet having been folded vertically instead of horizontally, as in the case of the Guildhall stamps. We notice in Mr. Martin's stamps that the punches are evidently sometimes faulty, as one specimen bears "B." and part of a "T," and another has only part of a "T" and a full-stop. The only one with a legible postmark bears the date "Nov. 8, 98." The stamps may not be very attractive, but we fancy many collectors will consider them quite as worthy of keeping as the I.R., O.W., Army Official, &c.

STOLEN STAMPS.

In our article under this heading in the October Supplement, we remarked upon the frequency with which the stamps of Ceylon are to be found with the name "Cave" printed across them as a precaution against theft, and asked whether any of our readers knew of any large firm of that name. A lady correspondent writes: "I read your article in the Supplement, and I may say that a philatelic friend of mine in Kandy told me that the 'Cave' on the Ceylon stamps is the name of a large stationer, book, and music-seller in Colombo. He stamps in this way all that he uses."

Egyptian Stamps.—The *Philatelic Monthly* some time ago reported the issue of a circular by the Egyptian Postmaster-General, announcing the early sale of a quantity of cancelled Egyptian stamps for the benefit of the Postal Employees' Charity Fund. The stamps, it appears, were taken off letters and parcels that have been lying for a number of years in the Dead Letter Office. In the lot are 10,000 10 piastres, 56,000 5 piastres, and 2300 2 piastres of 1879; and a quantity of the 1893 set; about 200,000 stamps in all. Bids for the lot or for portions were invited.

SURINAM: BOGUS SUR- CHARGE.

SOME of our readers may have been puzzled with the stamp here engraved, and which does not appear in any catalogue. It is the 2½ cent of 1884, perf. 11½ by 12, surcharged 1 cent in black. The stamp is of course genuine, but the surcharge, as we are



informed, is altogether bogus; and collectors will, therefore, please take note of it. A correspondent sent us two or three specimens, just after the issue of our last Supplement, asking what they were, and, not being sure that they were genuine provisionals, we made inquiries concerning them, with the above result. We do not know where or when they were manufactured.

PHILATELIC JOURNALISM.

A STRIKING feature of the popularity of stamp-collecting is the great boom in philatelic journals. Hardly a month goes by without some new candidate for our favour, and I am compelled to say that most of the recent ones contain little of philately and much of everything else, including advertisements. We find, too, that some of the dailies now devote space to our hobby (although, perhaps, in a sneering, superior way), and I see from the *Record* that two Continental dailies, hailing from Berlin and Madrid respectively, devote a column *per diem* to stamp-jottings, an advance which we yet hope may come to these islands, our daily Press at present being profoundly ignorant on the subject. The *Syracuse Times* has not only given stamp articles, but stamp illustrations! A forward movement truly.

The faults of our Philatelic Press are too great a fondness for reprints (not of stamps, but of articles from other journals), and, latterly, a huge desire to emulate financial journalists by inserting strongly-worded "personal" paragraphs, reports, courtesies and otherwise, which can only lower them in the estimation of all serious-minded philatelists who may be old-fashioned enough to want *philately* in their journals, and not editorial (and publisher's) quarrels.

R. P. J.

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